

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Title with the following new Title:

AUTOMATIC HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION DEVICE FOR A PRINTER HOUSING

Please add the following new paragraph after the Title and before the first line of the paragraph at line 4 of page 1.

This application is a U.S. National Phase Application of PCT International Application No. PCT/ES2004/000585 filed December 29, 2004.

Please replace the paragraph at line 8, page 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention seeks to satisfy the above need by providing an automatic printer housing handling and transportation device ~~characterised by~~ comprising a support to guide and support housings capable of being positioned in alignment with and close to a housing-bearing assembly and an instrument for attachment which can be moved from a transfer position in which the grasping/holding device interacts with said housing mounted on the housing-bearing assembly to grasp or to free it and a transportation position in which the housing grasped by the grasping/holding device is on the support. The support may have distinct configurations such as, for example, a mandril or cradle and the grasping/holding device activated in order to hold the housing by one extremity. So, when the grasping/holding device is displaced, it drags the housing along transferring it from the said housing-bearing assembly which, for example, may be installed in a jutting position on a printing machine, to the support for the device. An operation in the reverse direction transfers the housing from the support for the device to the machine's housing-bearing assembly and frees it in the same operation.

Please replace the paragraph at line 16, page 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Reference is first made to Figs. 1 and 2, in which are shown an automatic handling and transportation device for a printer housing according to a first embodiment of the present invention. The device comprises a basic mobile unit 10 and a handling unit 30 mounted on said basic mobile unit 10. Said basic mobile unit 10 comprises a lower section 13 provided with the first means of displacement which comprise wheels 14 adapted for displacement along lower way 1 which runs on first route X, at least one of the wheels 14 being a tractor wheel operated by motor 11. On this lower section ~~12~~13 there is a raised section 15 on which the handling unit

30 is supported. At an upper extremity of said raised section 15, the basic mobile unit 10 comprises also an upper section 16 provided with wheels 17 arranged to run along the upper way 3 which also runs on said first route X, that is to say, parallel with lower way 1. The upper way 3 has, associated with it, running along its length, an electric current conduit track 43 and control signals and said upper section 16 of the basic mobile unit 10 includes a dynamic power socket 18 to take said electricity supply and control signals from said track 43. The control signals remotely control the operation of the device and are emitted by electronic means of remote processing, preferably programmable.

Please replace the paragraph at line 12, page 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the embodiment shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the only handling unit 30 is mounted on the basic mobile unit 10 by means of a third means of displacement 44, 45, 46 arranged to move the handling unit 30 in relation to the basic mobile unit 10 on a third route Z, vertically and transversally to the first and second routes X, Y. These third means of displacement comprise guide-ways 44, arranged in said third route Z along said elevated section 15 of the basic mobile unit 10 and a saddle 45, on which is mounted the handling unit 30, arranged to run along said guide-ways 44 by a motor 46 connected and arranged for that purpose. With this arrangement, the support 31 of this single handling unit 30 can be positioned in alignment with any housing-bearing assembly 51 of the printing machine 50, or with any support 71, 81 on the transportation unit 70 or the place of storage 80, by a combined activation of said first and third means of displacement on routes X, Z, and by activating the second means of displacement on route Y, a housing can be transferred from the chosen housing-bearing assembly ~~50~~51 on the printing machine 50, or support 71, 81 of the transportation unit 70 or from the place of storage 80, to the support 31 of the handling unit 30, or vice-versa.

Please replace the paragraph at line 25, page 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In Figs. 4 to 6 are shown a sequence of operations to transfer the housing 2 from the housing-bearing assembly 51 on the printing machine 50 to the support 31, in the form of a mandril on the handling unit 30. In Fig. 4, the support 31 has been aligned with the housing-bearing assembly 51 by operating the first and third means of operation on routes X, Z, and the support 31 has been brought up to and coupled with the housing-bearing assembly 51 by operating the transferral means as described above. In Fig. 5, the second means of displacement on route Y have moved the grasping/holding device 32 until it is coupled with the

extremity of the housing 2 and in this position the grasping/holding device 32 is activated to take hold of the ~~mandril~~-housing 2 by an activation means 34, 49 which will be described below. In Fig. 6, the second means of displacement are activated in the opposite direction to route Y in order to transfer the housing 2 held by the grasping/holding device 32 from the housing-bearing assembly 51 to the support 31. Next, the means of transferral can remove the support 31 from the housing-bearing assembly 51 to a prudent distance and the first and third activation means for routes X, Z can remove the basic mobile unit 10 and the handling unit 30 in order to transfer the housing 2 from the support 31 to a support 71, 81 on the transportation unit 70 or place of storage 80. To place a new housing 2 on the housing-bearing assembly 51 reverse operations are carried out.